

UMS start New Year with a bang

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) FC started the New Year with a bang by opening with consecutive wins in the Felda/FAM National Futsal League at the Triways Sports Complex in Shah Alam, Selangor.

UMS FC opened their campaign in the women's Group B with a 7-1 thrashing of the Armed Forces on Saturday.

And the team coached by Mohd Asyraaf Fong Abdullah produced yet another high-scoring victory, beating KL Putra Ria 9-2 yesterday.

As in the first match, UMS FC striker-in-chief Sherilyn Pius tormented the opponents' defence by scoring four goals to increase her tally to seven in two matches.

Haindee Mosroh bagged a hat-trick while Dadree Rofinus and Uslizah Osman added the remaining goals against KL Putra Ria.

Asyraaf was satisfied with the victories which he said was important to give UMS FC a strong foundation in the eight-team Group B competition.

"It was a good start for us in the tournament, although against the weaker sides in the group.

"The victory will provide the players with confidence ahead of a much tougher tests in our coming matches," he said when contacted yesterday.

Asyraaf was referring to the clashes with the Royal Malaysian Police Force (PDRM) and



GOOD START ... Asyraaf (right, back) poses with the UMS FC squad after clinching maximum points from their opening two games.

Selangor MPSJ FC on January 21-22.

UMS FC head-to-head battles with the opponents read a 3-1 win against PDRM and a 1-2 defeat to MPSJ in Grand Finals of the same tournament in 2010.

"There are rooms for improvement despite our victories. We need to be strong defensively especially when up against the likes of PDRM and MPSJ who have many national players in their ranks.

"We will look into that when the team resume training and hopefully the team will improve when we go into our next fixtures," said Asyraaf who is assisted by Azman Soaibah.

Meanwhile, UMS FC is one of the three teams from the State

competing in the national futsal league where the other two are the Sabah State squad for men and women, both drawn in Group A.

Group A fixtures were played from December 17-18 where Sabah men, comprising mostly young players, won 3-2 against Pulau Pinang but lost 0-2 to Selangor PKNS FC.

The Sabah women squad also shared the statistic where they edged Perlis Unimap 2-0 but lost to defending champions Selangor 0-2.

The Group A fixtures will resume earlier on January 14-15.

For the record, the top four teams in each group of the men and women's competitions will advance into the Grand Finals.